MoUs under Rural Business Hubs initiative

1716. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Rural Business Hubs initiative, Government have facilitated of signing about 50 MoUs between private companies and Panchayati Raj institutions;

(b) if so, how many MoUs have been entered into between the Panchayati Raj institutions in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the private companies;

(c) the details of MoUs entered in (b) above;

(d) whether any MoUs have been entered into with foreign Multinational Companies in areas like fruit processing, dairying, handicrafts and handlooms, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No MoUs has been signed yet between Panchayat Raj Institutions in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the private companies.

(c) Does not arise;

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Timely elections to Panchayats and Municipalities

1717. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has laid down general guidelines for holding timely elections to Panchayats and Municipalities; and

(b) if so, the details and action proposed to be taken to comply with/ implement the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKARAIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement on Kishansing Tomar, Vs. Municipal Corporation of the city of Ahmedabad and others in the case of civil appeal 5756 of 2005 regarding Municipalities/Panchayats elections have ordered that elections to Panchayats or municipalities should be held within the time-frame mandated in the Constitution.If the State Election Commission feels that it is not receiving cooperation from the State Government concerned in discharging its Constitutional